Lesson plans

Helping Hands Tip Sheet

Did you know?
A good place to get ideas for creating lesson plans comes from teachers' observations of children while they are playing.

Lesson plan ideas for children younger than school age should include "real life" examples of the topic. As an example, if your topic is transportation, make sure you have some real transportation vehicles to let children see and touch.

Something to think about:

Very young children are not abstract thinkers, the topics you explore in your classroom should involve things the children are familiar with. Talking about the ocean or dolphins may not make sense to children living in the desert or mountains; they may have not been to the ocean and may have only seen dolphins on television. Familiar objects and/or experiences are a good beginning to creating lesson plans for young children.

How to gather ideas for Lesson Plans:

Observe the children in your room while they play. Note what they are talking about and what items they spend time using. Make a list of the topics of conversations and the most popular toys and other materials the children are using. From this list, you can create topics to use for future lesson plans.

Points to consider:
Young children need to explore the world around them in order to build their language skills as well as fine and gross motor skills.

Young children discover new information and skills while exploring materials.

Introduce new materials and information slowly. Children need time to gain a concrete understanding.

Repeat favorite experiences and activities. Children continue to learn new information from familiar experiences and activities.

Getting started:

Spend some time observing children at play. Mmake a list of the ideas they are interested in.
Gather books and materials that will support this topic in your classroom.
Introduce the topic to children. Listen and observe children's responses. Adjust the lesson plan based on children's interest.
Extend the lesson plan if children are interested.